

## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES, MAY 1979

### INQUIRIES

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### MAIN FEATURES

The figures below refer to industrial disputes involving stoppages of 10 man-days or more.

- There were 260 disputes in May 1979 in which 233,300 working days were lost by the 109,800 workers involved.
- The largest disputes involved mining employees in Western Australia, railway workers in three States and building workers in five States and the A.C.T.

### EXPLANATORY NOTES

#### Introduction

More detailed information about disputes appears in the quarterly publication *Industrial Disputes* (6322.0).

2. The statistics of industrial disputes are compiled according to the Australian Standard Industrial Classification (ASIC), described in the Bureau publication *Australian Standard Industrial Classification (Preliminary Edition)*, 1969, Vol. 1.

#### Coverage

3. The statistics refer only to disputes involving stoppages of work of ten man-days or more. Workers involved include workers directly and indirectly involved in disputes. Workers indirectly involved are those thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred, but who are not themselves parties to the dispute. Particulars of some stoppages (e.g. those involving a large number of establishments) may have been estimated and the statistics therefore should be

regarded as giving a broad measure of the extent of stoppages of work (as defined).

4. Stoppages of work occurring at different times and at different establishments, but having a common cause may be regarded as one industrial dispute. However, an industrial dispute occurring in more than one State is counted as a separate dispute in each State. Disputes not settled at the end of a year are included as new disputes in the figures for the following year. The monthly statistics refer to all disputes operative in the month, including those disputes that commenced in previous months. In Table 1 details of the number of disputes and workers involved are shown separately for disputes beginning in the month and for all disputes. Average days lost per worker involved on a monthly basis are not comparable with the yearly averages, because workers involved are included in each month in which they are involved in disputes, while they are counted once only for each dispute in the annual statistics.

#### Related publications

5. All publications produced by the ABS are listed in *Catalogue of Publications* (1101.0) which is available free of charge from any ABS office.

#### Symbols and other usages

- .. not applicable
- p preliminary — figure subject to revision.

6. Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

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Australian Statistician



TABLE 1. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : AUSTRALIA

Period	Number of disputes		Workers involved ('000)		Working days lost		Estimated loss in wages (a) (\$'000)
	Beginning in month	Total (a)	Beginning in month	Total (a)	Number (a) ('000)	Average days per worker involved (b)	
1976	..	2,055	..	2,189.9	3,799.2	1.7	114,552
1977	..	2,090	..	596.2	1,654.8	2.8	59,674
1978	..	2,277	..	1,075.6	2,130.8	2.0	78,404
1978 -							
April	184	208	102.1	110.0	227.5	2.1	8,078
May	225	249	346.9	368.9	413.6	1.1	14,156
June	178	200	57.3	60.4	150.6	2.5	6,253
July	213	233	68.1	79.5	159.9	2.0	6,290
August	234	256	142.4	155.9	250.2	1.6	9,498
September	237	289	84.4	101.0	252.8	2.5	8,859
October	241	287	58.9	75.7	207.0	2.7	7,672
November	203	248	53.3	72.8	170.7	2.3	6,184
December	105	126	81.2	89.1	114.7	1.3	4,253
1979 -							
January	133	133	25.2	25.2	51.0	2.0	2,199
February	197	214	75.0	79.0	233.0	3.0	10,195
March	256	290	84.5	99.5	222.9	2.2	8,461
April (c) p	138	188	42.8	68.2	151.9	2.2	5,346
May p	234	260	100.8	109.8	233.3	2.1	8,904

(a) Refers to all disputes operative and workers involved in the period. (b) Monthly figures are not comparable with yearly figures. (c) Excludes truck owner-drivers who participated in blockades and employees stood down as a result.

TABLE 2. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : INDUSTRIES, AUSTRALIA  
WORKING DAYS LOST ('000) (a)

Period	Mining		Manufacturing		Transport and storage; communication			Other industries (b)	All industries
	Coal	Other	Metal products, machinery and equipment	Other	Construction	Stevedoring services			
						Other			
1976	159.1	215.0	775.0	856.5	535.8	37.1	388.0	832.6	3,799.2
1977	102.8	170.9	204.4	455.7	215.2	39.9	172.6	293.3	1,654.8
1978	142.3	125.1	732.1	490.2	134.1	122.9	166.9	217.2	2,130.8
1978 —									
April	6.6	15.0	65.9	84.0	2.0	39.7	9.7	4.8	227.5
May	7.4	14.0	288.6	32.6	20.0	14.1	13.5	23.5	413.6
June	36.4	13.6	24.0	17.4	14.2	3.7	26.8	14.5	150.6
July	19.0	15.3	40.1	26.6	9.8	1.4	9.5	38.2	159.9
August	13.5	24.4	111.6	40.8	28.0	6.2	16.9	8.8	250.2
September	15.1	1.8	48.3	74.0	14.7	38.9	24.0	35.9	252.8
October	10.4	16.1	43.2	97.8	12.9	3.4	2.8	20.4	207.0
November	4.4	6.1	46.1	56.1	8.3	4.7	6.2	38.8	170.7
December	6.4	2.3	33.0	17.7	3.9	4.7	32.1	14.6	114.7
1979 —									
January	5.6	5.4	8.1	7.5	11.6	2.0	3.6	7.2	51.0
February	12.2	7.2	52.9	21.3	15.0	1.9	43.7	78.9	233.0
March	17.2	15.2	46.5	27.6	24.6	1.6	67.8	22.4	222.9
April (c) p	1.8	5.4	21.0	33.9	11.5	6.3	58.3	13.8	151.9
May p	11.3	35.3	31.5	26.8	37.3	6.8	25.8	58.6	233.3

(a) Refers to all disputes operative in the period. (b) ASIC divisions A, D, F, I to L. (c) See footnote (c) to Table 1.

TABLE 3. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES  
WORKING DAYS LOST ('000) (a)

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust. (b)
1976	1,456.5	1,420.0	426.0	151.8	252.1	62.2	3,799.2
1977	538.2	586.1	240.8	30.6	220.5	26.7	1,654.8
1978	970.8	468.1	360.3	79.1	197.9	35.4	2,130.8
1978 -							
April	104.4	44.5	25.8	16.0	26.6	9.1	227.5
May	198.9	131.4	45.2	11.2	16.2	8.9	413.6
June	52.1	23.5	55.2	3.2	11.5	4.9	150.6
July	90.3	19.2	24.6	5.4	17.4	1.0	159.9
August	136.0	38.7	40.4	10.9	19.9	3.0	250.2
September	125.1	79.9	27.2	6.6	8.3	1.9	252.8
October	94.0	38.4	38.4	5.0	21.7	4.2	207.0
November	59.9	33.8	33.8	7.3	34.1	0.7	170.7
December	30.6	17.3	44.2	4.7	17.4	0.6	114.7
1979 -							
January	22.6	15.3	3.6	0.2	7.8	0.7	51.0
February	158.4	46.9	5.4	9.1	6.6	2.7	233.0
March	103.1	71.8	18.7	4.4	10.2	6.4	222.9
April (c) p	60.1	55.6	12.8	11.1	9.2	2.1	151.9
May p	72.2	93.9	8.8	9.3	39.7	4.1	233.3

(a) Refers to all disputes operative in the period. (b) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory. (c) See footnote (c) to Table 1.